UCSF
Newsbreak

News for the UCSF Campus Community VOL. 12, NO. 9 MAY 10, 1997

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8 UCSF Stanford merger target date now set for Sept. 1



Chris T. Anderson

Enjoying the reception at the recent opening of the SFGH surgery research lab are, from left, Elliot Rapaport, associate dean, William Schecter, chief of surgery at SFGH, Theodore Schrock, professor and interim chair of surgery, Richard Cordova, executive administrator at SFGH, and Haile Debas, dean of the UCSF School of Medicine.

SFGH opens surgery laboratory

The new UCSF Surgery Laboratory at SFGH was officially inaugurated on April 28 with an open house for UCSF/SFGH faculty and staff.

The lab will serve the faculty and residents in surgery at SFGH and was constructed through a partnership between the UCSF School of Medicine, the City and County of San Francisco, the UCSF Department of Surgery and the UCSF Division of Surgery at SFGH, according to William Schecter, chief of surgery at SFGH.

The laboratory has been a goal of the surgery division since Schecter became chief in 1993. "Dean Debas was the person whose support was absolutely essential to the project," Schecter said. "He and Professor Ted Schrock both agreed to support the laboratory."

The laboratory has 5,780 square feet including office space and is located in the second floor of Building 1 on the SFGH campus.

The SFGH surgery faculty has decided to concentrate their research efforts on the study of the systemic inflammatory response syndrome.

"We believe the laboratory will augment the sense of intellectual excitement that all of us feel in surgery at SFGH. We will take the observations that we make in the ICU ward and OR to the laboratory for careful study," Schecter said.

The bottom line, he said, is to conduct research that will lead to improved care for patients.

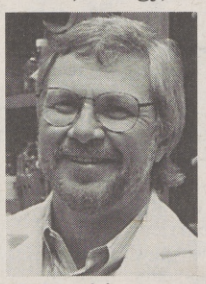
McCormick to direct Cancer Center

By DALE MARTIN

Frank McCormick, who heads the Cancer Research Institute at UCSF, has been named director of the UCSF Cancer Center.

Haile Debas, dean of the UCSF School of Medicine, who will become chancellor in July, recently announced the appointment.

"Frank McCormick will provide the kind of leadership all of us involved in the Cancer Center have been seeking — vision, energy, and innovative ideas combined with the collaborative collegiality for which UCSF is well-known," Debas says. "He will be able to galvanize the Bay Area clinical, scientific, and philanthropic communities to work together to develop the best Cancer Center in the country. I am very excited about this appointment and grateful to Frank for accepting this significant increase in responsibility."



McCormick

McCormick, who became director of the Cancer Research Institute (CRI), the laboratory science arm of the cancer center in January, has been overseeing the opening of the new research building at 2340 Sutter St., and recruiting scientists. The move into the research building is currently under way.

McCormick will direct the activities of the Cancer Center, which includes more than 250 cancer specialists throughout the UCSF campuses who are involved in laboratory, clinical and population-based cancer research.

(See **McCormick** on page 3)

Faculty discuss merits of merger with Stanford

By BRAD FOSS

In what was said to be the largest turnout of the UCSF Academic Senate in a decade, faculty met Monday to discuss the impact the merger would have on the University's academic and clinical missions.

Vishu Lingappa, professor of physiology and an outspoken critic of the plan, argued that the merger threatens to "undermine the academic medical missions" of UCSF — especially the traditional role of providing indigent medical care.

"I fear that the merger's focus on market share and profitability loses sight of UCSF's reason for existence, making it easier to redefine our missions rather than to fight for them," said Lingappa, adding that the merger violates the concept of shared governance between faculty and administration.

About 200 faculty gathered in Cole Hall for a special meeting of the Academic Senate, whose 900 members are responsible for curriculum and admissions policies.

Despite the belief of merger supporters that details of the plan had been shared openly and written about in campus publications for more than a year, some voiced frustration over a lack of details provided to them about the formation of UCSF Stanford Health Care (USHC.) They asked for more information about their role in policy and decision making in the new corporation. A few faculty members accused the Senate of being too lax in gathering and disseminating information to its constituents.

Referring to reports that UCSF Medical Center will have a higher operating gain at the end of this fiscal year than was originally projected, Stanton Glantz, professor of medicine, said he is very skeptical about the need for the merger. Glantz said it's important for faculty to hear from "equally informed people" who support and oppose the merger.

Ronald Siegel, associate professor in the School of Pharmacy and chairman of the UCSF Committee on Academic Freedom, said there are some fears that market forces could corner USHC into forming policies that favor medical expediency over academic integrity.

Task forces from both UCSF and Stanford have convened to identify other issues including governance, academic personnel, and research and teaching support, and are preparing a joint report and recommendations for the merger. (See story below.)

The Academic Senate concluded the two-hour meeting with an agreement - by adoption of a resolution - to continue discussing the pros and cons of the merger at another special meeting. The time and place of that meeting had not been set by press time.

A call for an Academic Senate vote on whether or not the merger should proceed was withdrawn. Regardless, such a vote would only be symbolic to the merger process. USHC officials hope to obtain approval of final merger documents and legal agreements by mid-July. (See story on page 8.)

Bruce Wintroub, chief medical officer of USHC, and UCSF Department of Medicine chair Lee Goldman, a member of the USHC board, attended the meeting to answer questions about the merger and its impact.

"It's important to emphasize that this merger exists to further the goals of both universities," Goldman said. "That's been agreed upon from the beginning and is in the core statement of the charter. A large number of these issues have been on the table right from the beginning."

A vocal minority of faculty continued to question the need for the merger, expressing a desire to leave the operation of the Medical Center unchanged.

The merger offers the best way of allowing UCSF to preserve its mission while surviving funding reductions and competitive pressures, USHC officials say. By combining clinical services and improving its financial position, for example, USHC will be better able to continue providing indigent care than could the individual medical centers.

USHC will also be in a better position to contribute funds to the University's schools. In addition to the $20 million currently distributed to various academic programs at UCSF, Wintroub said USHC would give $1.25 million to UCSF as the first line item expense. After all other expenses are paid and reserve funds are set aside, USHC would distribute an additional $2.5 million to be split by UCSF and Stanford. "Dollars of this type are not available now in our past system, but are committed to in the future with USHC," Wintroub said.

Sympathetic to faculty angst regarding closed-door negotiations, Wintroub responded, "It's very hard to compete in this environment and run a successful organization if your decisions and your records are simply open to the public."

Senate task force to make recommendations for merger

The UCSF Academic Senate heard a status report Monday from a task force preparing recommendations on the implementation of the UCSF Stanford merger.

Task force chair Svien Øie, professor and vice chair of pharmacy, told those attending the special meeting that his group concluded that the University must act decisively to ensure the survival of the UCSF Medical Center in the changing health care environment.

"For the Medical Center to function, we need to see either increased public financial support or a better competitive position," Øie said.

The merger of clinical services at UCSF and Stanford is expected to create a strongly competitive enterprise in UCSF Stanford Health Care (USHC). The ad hoc task force chaired by Øie is working to determine how this new non-profit public benefit corporation should work with the schools of dentistry, medicine, nursing, and pharmacy to support strong academic programs.

Concerns identified in the ongoing task force examination of the merger include questions about governance, academic personnel, teaching and research, Øie said. The primary concern expressed about the way the merged entity will be governed involves a call to include faculty representation on the new board.

Unresolved issues concerning academic personnel include the need to develop a policy for hiring physicians not affiliated with either university and to establish common policies between the Stanford and UCSF schools of medicine, such as grievance procedures, education policies, and faculty privileges.

Teaching concerns include a call for inclusion of the teaching mission in the charter of USHC, the need for an agreement on training sites that eliminates competition between the medical schools, and the need to develop a method to monitor clinical education.

The task force identified a similar desire to have the research mission included as part of the new entity's charter and cited the need to assure researchers access to patients and research sites and to conduct "bench to bed" research.

The task force plans to work with a similar group of Stanford faculty members to develop a set of joint recommendations, Øie said. The recommendations will define the academic goals, establish a method of monitoring USHC's performance in meeting those goals, and call on faculty members to make a commitment to achieving the goals.

—By Bill Gordon

Berger is new chair of neurosurgery

Michel S. Berger was appointed as professor and chair of the department of neurological surgery and director of the Brain Tumor Research Center.

Berger obtained his BA in 1975 from Harvard College and his MD in 1979 from the University of Miami School of Medicine.

He comes to UCSF from the University of Washington School of Medicine in Seattle, where he was professor of neurosurgery with appointments as chief of the Northwest Neuro-Oncology Research & Therapy Section and chief of pediatric neurosurgical oncology at the Children's Hospital and Medical Center.

Berger received an American Cancer Society (ACS) career development award and was named Washington state ACS professor of clinical oncology for the term 1995-1998. He is a member of the executive committee of the Congress of Neurological Surgeons.

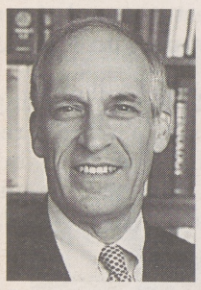
Berger's principal clinical interests are in pediatric neurosurgery, in particular the treatment of brain and spinal cord tumors, and in mapping eloquent areas of cortical and subcortical brain to achieve maximal resection of brain tumors and control of tumor-related epilepsy for adults and children. Funded by the ACS and the National Institutes of Health, his research has two branches: to produce a structural information framework for mapping the brain's motor, sensory and language pathways; and to define DNA damage and repair mechanisms in order to develop treatment protocols to overcome resistance of brain tumors to chemotherapy.

Meanwhile, Charles Wilson, chair of neurological surgery and director of the Brain Tumor Research Center since 1968, steps down from the chair to devote more time to his administrative role as senior associate on medical affairs to UC President Richard Atkinson. He continues his active neurosurgery practice.

Benet to receive triple honors

Leslie Z. Benet, professor and chair, department of biopharmaceutical sciences will receive triple honors this month.

The University of Illinois at Chicago will award him an honorary doctor of science on May 11. A day later, Benet will be awarded with an honorary doctor of science at the Philadelphia College of Pharmacy and Science at its 176th commencement.


Benet

And Benet will be the guest of honor at a UCSF School of Pharmacy symposium titled, "The Impact of Pharmokinetics in Modern Drug Development" to be held Friday and Saturday, May 16 and 17 at the Holiday Inn Golden Gateway.

Benet will be among the experts in the fields of pharmokinetics, pharmacodynamics, drug metabolism, drug delivery and bioanalytical chemistry who will participate in the two-day forum, which coincidentally falls on Benet's 60th birthday.

An eminent leader in the field of biopharmaceutical sciences, Benet has been a role model and mentor to more than 120 graduate students, postdocs and visiting scholars at UCSF, many of whom will attend and present seminars at the symposium.

His knowledge of biopharmaceutical science has been influential within other universities, in addition to professional associations of pharmacy, the Institute of Medicine and the FDA.

To obtain more information about the upcoming symposium, call Abby Solokoff at 476-1680 or email her at abby@itsa.ucsf.edu.

Williams elected to National Academy of Science

Lewis T. "Rusty" Williams, an internationally renowned expert on the role of growth factors in heart disease, was elected April 29 to the National Academy of Sciences (NAS.)

An adjunct professor of medicine at UCSF and scientist at the Cardiovascular Research Institute (CVRI), Williams is one of 60 new members and 15 foreign associates whose election was announced at the 134th annual meeting of the NAS. He is the 22nd UCSF faculty member to be elected to the NAS, considered one of the highest honors that can be accorded a US scientist or engineer.

Williams, now president of Chiron Technologies in Emeryville, came to UCSF's CVRI in 1984 when he was appointed as an investigator of the Howard Hughes Medical Institute.

From 1992 to 1994, Williams served as director of the CVRI, where his molecular cardiology program unraveled the mechanisms and actions of growth factors. These proteins are secreted from their cells of origin and travel through the body to receptor sites on the surfaces of target cells. When the cell-surface receptors bind to growth factors, the receptors transmit a signal into the cell commanding the cell to grow or multiply. Williams discovered that a protein called platelet-derived growth factor known to be important in embryonic development and in wound healing, also plays a role in atherosclerosis, the narrowing of blood vessels.

In 1989 he became the senior scientist on a major, seven-year project funded by the National Heart, Lung & Blood Institute of the National Institutes of Health. Through this project UCSF scientists studied the proliferation and differentiation of cells that make up the heart, blood vessels and lungs.

In recent years the CVRI has received about $21 million annually from funding sources outside UC to directly support research. The 90 UCSF faculty members that comprise the CVRI bridge many research and clinical departments.

Williams also was the first director of the Daiichi Research Center for the study of cardiovascular disease at UCSF, a research program funded by the Daiichi Pharmaceutical Co. Ltd. of Tokyo. He held this post from 1993 until 1994, when he joined Chiron Corp.

Williams received his MD and PhD degrees from Duke University, and completed specialty training in cardiology at Massachusetts General Hospital. Before coming to UCSF, he was an assistant professor of medicine at Harvard Medical School. Among his honors is the Outstanding Young Investigator Award of the American Federation for Clinical Research. In 1994, he was also elected a member of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences.

The National Academy of Sciences, which now has 1,773 active members, is a private organization of scientists and engineers dedicated to the furtherance of science and its use for the general welfare. Established in 1863 by a congressional act of incorporation signed by Abraham Lincoln, the Academy is mandated to advise the federal government on matters of science and technology.

NATIONAL ACADEMY OF SCIENCES MEMBERS

J. Michael Bishop (1980)
Elizabeth Blackburn (1993)
Henry Bourne (1994)
Herbert W. Boyer (1985)
John Clements (1974)
Carol Gross (1992)
Melvin Grumbach (1995)
Christine Guthrie (1993)
Richard Havel (1983)
Ira Herskowitz (1986)
Lily Jan (1995)
Yuh Nung Jan (1996)
Yuet Wai Kan (1986)
Roger Nicoll (1994)
Stanley Prusiner (1992)
William Rutter (1984)
Rudi Schmid (1974)
Walther Stoeckenius (1978)
Harold E. Varmus (1984)
Lewis Williams (1997)
Keith Yamamoto (1990)

Nye receives Royer Award

Gary S. Nye, associate clinical professor, is the winner of the Dr. J. Elliott Royer Award in Psychiatry for his expertise and leadership in addressing the problems that can lead to drug addiction among anesthesiologists and suicide of psychiatrists, for example.

Through his work with hospitals, medical associations and state agencies, Nye helped create effective and compassionate programs to assist physicians and other health professionals and their families who suffer from addiction, mental illness, physical disabilities or the stress of medical malpractice litigation. These programs enable health care professionals to return to productive lives and to ensure, through early intervention and monitoring, that patient care will not be compromised.

"Dr. Nye pioneered this effort in California and has raised the consciousness of the whole medical profession," said Craig Van Dyke, chair of the department of psychiatry at Langley Porter Psychiatric Institute, who presented the award at the annual meeting of the Northern California Psychiatric Society in Monterey last month.

Nye was instrumental in establishing in 1979 and developing the state licensing agency's "Diversion Program," which allows physicians to voluntarily enter into a confidential recovery program without fear of prosecution. He also played a key role in other efforts aimed at helping health care professionals.

Nye says his role as a physician's advocate has evolved over the years beginning with his appointment to the state medical board, a position he filled after completing his psychiatric residency at LPPI in 1971. "I was in the formative stages of my own professional identity and I was struck immediately by the tragedies of the doctors who were being disciplined for problems that were treatable, such as addiction and manic depressive disorder. It just seemed to me that through early intervention and treatment, they could avoid enormous hardship, pain and expense."



Van Dyke presents the award to Nye.

Nye co-authored a paper based on a 10-year study that showed that such programs have very good results. "We found that once doctors had been through the program they were actually less of a risk to society than doctors in general." He attributes the success to correcting detrimental patterns of behavior early on.

Nye continues as a consultant to the state medical board. He has also served on a variety of medical society and organizational committees. Nye maintains an active practice in Orinda — seeing many physicians — as well as teaching medical students, residents and other graduate level health professionals at UCSF.

The award was created in 1962 in the memory of Royer and is given annually to a psychiatrist or neurologist who has excelled in clinical practice and community service while practicing in San Francisco, Contra Costa or Alameda counties.

Honors & Awards

John A. Clements, professor of pediatrics, Cardiovascular Research Institute: Received the 1997 Discoverers Award at the March 25 session of the Pharmaceutical Research and Manufacturers of America (PhRMA) for his contributions to the treatment of respiratory distress syndrome of newborns. This award is given each year to "scientists whose research and development of pharmaceuticals have greatly benefitted mankind, and whose dedication and interest in improving the quality of life exemplify the best in the research industry today."

Margaret Dolcini, assistant professor of medicine and researcher at CAPS: Awarded the 1997 Young Investigator Award for outstanding contributions to the field of behavioral medicine at the Society for Behavioral Medicine meeting in San Francisco on April 16-19. Dolcini's research has focused on investigating social development and adolescent risk behavior in ethnic minority groups.


Folkman

Susan Folkman, adjunct professor of medicine, division of general internal medicine and co-director of the Center for AIDS Prevention Studies: Awarded an honorary PhD by the University of Utrecht for "major theoretical and empirical contributions to cognitive stress theory." The degree was awarded in a special ceremony commemorating the anniversary of the university's founding 361 years ago. Folkman's research has focused on stress and coping in the context of AIDS-related caregiving and bereavement.

Private Support

UCSF is pleased to acknowledge the following listing of gifts/pledges of $25,000 or more from individuals, corporations and foundations received April 1-15, 1997.

$500,000 or more
Meyer Friedman Institute

$100,000 - $499,999
Alfred P. Sloan Foundation

$25,000 - $99,999
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Susan Reichert Gortner
Otsuka America Pharmaceutical Inc.

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Deadline for the next issue, to cover May 24–June 6, 1997, will be on **Tuesday, May 13.** Please send news to Lisa Cisneros, 476-3256 or (cisnero@itsa.ucsf.edu), and calendar items to Brad Foss, 476-3163 or (bfoss@itsa.ucsf.edu), both at Box 0462. Fax last-minute copy to 476-3541. For address and distribution changes, call C.J. Burleson at 476-6791. The University of California is an affirmative action/equal opportunity employer. UCSF fully ascribes to the Americans with Disabilities Act. To view this communication in an alternate format, contact Cisneros at 476-3256 with your suggestions.

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This publication is printed on recycled paper using soybean-based inks.

Gold Pages points the way to reliable businesses

If the worth of a telephone directory is measured by the color of its pages, then the UCSF Gold Pages is sure to be of great value to the campus community.

This gender- and race- neutral version is the second edition of the Gold Pages, reflecting changes mandated by UC Regents' decision to end the use of race, religion, sex, color, ethnicity or national origin as criteria in contracting decisions.

"The University is committed to making every effort to ensure that small business enterprises have an equal opportunity to do business at the UCSF campus," writes Michael Adams, director of affirmative action/equal opportunity, in the directory's introduction. "Please help UCSF meet its commitment by extending business opportunities to these firms."

The directory is intended to be a resource for departments seeking to have a diverse pools of vendors, one that includes small businesses as well as those owned by women, minorities and disabled veterans.

According to federal law, any department with a federal contract of $10,000 or more is required to have a business affirmative action program.

In addition to listing local vendors with a proven record of reliability in providing services to UCSF – and those businesses seeking to develop a working relationship with the University – the Gold Pages provides information on employee services and benefits available on campus. An easy-to-understand section on departmental purchasing and equipment repair orders is also included.

The Office of Affirmative Action requests that when contacting these businesses tell them you found them in the UCSF Gold Pages.

Campus offers workshop in cross-cultural care

By LISA CISNEROS

People react differently to the color of Melissa Welch's skin. A well-meaning colleague said she looks especially good in a white lab coat while a few patients refuse to be treated by her.


Welch

Whether it's a matter of innocence or pure ignorance, Welch knows firsthand the need for cross-cultural training on a campus where 42 percent of faculty and staff are minorities and the patients and visitors they see are equally diverse. A recent campuswide survey confirmed that most students, faculty and staff agree they could benefit by learning more about their global neighbors.

A member of the Chancellor's diversity committee, Welch, assistant clinical professor of medicine, is spearheading a new series of workshops designed to examine how people view the world and how that shapes their beliefs of illness and health care.

One of several campuswide initiatives now under way, the workshop aims at helping break down racial and other barriers to effective, competent communication and care.

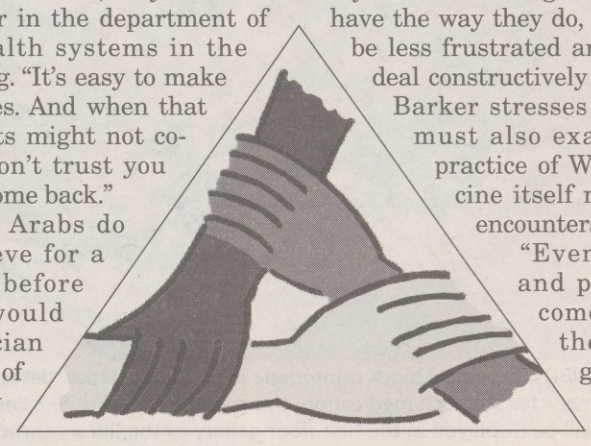
The workshop is based on a program piloted within the School of Medicine last year. Feedback from its 35 participants — who rated the program good overall — showed, among other things, requests for more training and for exercises that are workplace specific.

"There really hasn't been any focus on improving cross-cultural competency in medicine," says Welch, a member of the division of general internal medicine at UCSF for three years. A certified trainer in cross-cultural medicine, Welch has received several University teaching grants to develop curricula in diversity and cross-cultural medicine for students.

Open to all students, residents and faculty, the workshop seeks to heighten sensitivity to issues related to culture, race, gender, sexual orientation and socioeconomic status, encourage open communication among diverse groups, and stimulate interest to finding practical solutions to cultural conflict. "Participants be able to gain the skills necessary to intervene effectively in situations where others are insensitive or ignorant to cultural differences," Welch says.

Recognizing cultural differences

"If you try to treat everybody the same, you can get into trouble," says Juliene Lipson, professor in the department of community health systems in the School of Nursing. "It's easy to make the wrong choices. And when that happens, patients might not cooperate, they won't trust you and they won't come back."



For example, Arabs do not openly grieve for a dying person before death and would rather a physician inform the head of family privately about the impending death before telling the patient.

Lipson edited "Culture & Nursing Care," a handbook — now in its second printing — that gives a snapshot of human diversity to be used as a starting point for customizing care.

Despite increased literature for health practitioners about cross-cultural differences, the need for greater awareness of these issues as they affect the healing arts will intensify in the coming years as the population continues to diversify, says Judith Barker.

Barker has studied cross-cultural medicine for the past 12 years as a professor of the medical anthropology program in the department of epidemiology and biostatistics. She acknowledges that offering training and revising the school's curricula are positive measures, but "there is still a great need to continue these and other efforts."

It's not only critical to know the health beliefs of patients, but also their world view, Barker says. For instance, clinicians who characterize Russian patients as being overbearing, pushy and abrasive, should know that the older émigrés came from a society where they had to fight for scarce basic necessities and medical supplies. As a result, they had to "make constant, loud and noisy demands for attention; to find out who is 'in charge' so as to beg them for special consideration and to exaggerate distress in the hopes of receiving care or services," Barker notes.

By understanding why patients behave the way they do, clinicians would be less frustrated and more able to deal constructively with them. And Barker stresses that clinicians must also examine how the practice of Western biomedicine itself may affect their encounters with patients.

"Even if a provider and patient were to come from broadly the same background, there is still plenty of room for misunderstanding and miscommunication," she says.

Indeed, clinicians' reliance on technology to prolong life and myths about the nature of specific patient populations and their responses to diseases affecting them can lead to a strained relationship.

"We need to look at more subtle issues of access and how patients get treated once they're here," says Barker.

Cross-cultural medicine workshop

Sponsored by the Chancellor's Committee on Diversity, the workshops will be offered as a series of half-day sessions each academic year beginning in June. Participants must complete each of the workshops in sequence although not necessarily during the same academic year. Space is limited to 25 participants. To sign up, call 502-4212.

McCormick (from page 1)

McCormick's appointment to this vital leadership position comes at a time when UCSF is seeking to become the only cancer center in Northern California to be designated as a comprehensive cancer center by the National Cancer Institute. Receiving such a designation from the NCI is expected to bring more resources and access to new therapies to the cancer center. With McCormick's appointment, UCSF is expected to move ahead to receive the important NCI-designation.

UCSF has been historically strong in basic cancer research, McCormick says, so he plans to build up the clinical research side. "I will actively be looking for a clinical director of research to coordinate our many trials. We want to be seen as a major center for clinical studies."

McCormick also hopes to integrate UCSF's cancer center activities with that of Stanford as the two universities are expected to unite their patient care services.

"We're in a position to integrate and create one comprehensive center for the whole area," he says. "The ultimate goal is to serve one population base."

A molecular biologist and outstanding research scientist in the field of cancer biology, McCormick's own research has centered on the molecular basis of cancer, with an emphasis on the family of cancer genes. In 1992, McCormick founded ONYX Pharmaceuticals Inc., of Richmond, Calif., a biotechnology company that aims to discover and develop new cancer therapies. McCormick will continue to serve as exclusive consultant to ONYX.

Prior to founding ONYX, McCormick served as vice president, therapeutic research at Chiron Corporation from 1991 to 1992, and as vice president of discovery research at Cetus Corporation from 1990 to 1991.

McCormick earned his doctorate in biochemistry from Cambridge University in England and completed postdoctoral studies at the State University of New York at Stony Brook and at the Imperial Cancer Research Fund in London. He is a fellow of the Royal Society of Great Britain. At UCSF, McCormick will hold the David A. Wood Chair of Tumor Biology and Cancer Research.

The Cancer Research Institute at UCSF was established in 1947 to act as a focus for the study of basic problems in cancer biology. UCSF receives more than $25 million each year from the NCI to conduct cancer research.

Other diversity-related efforts under way

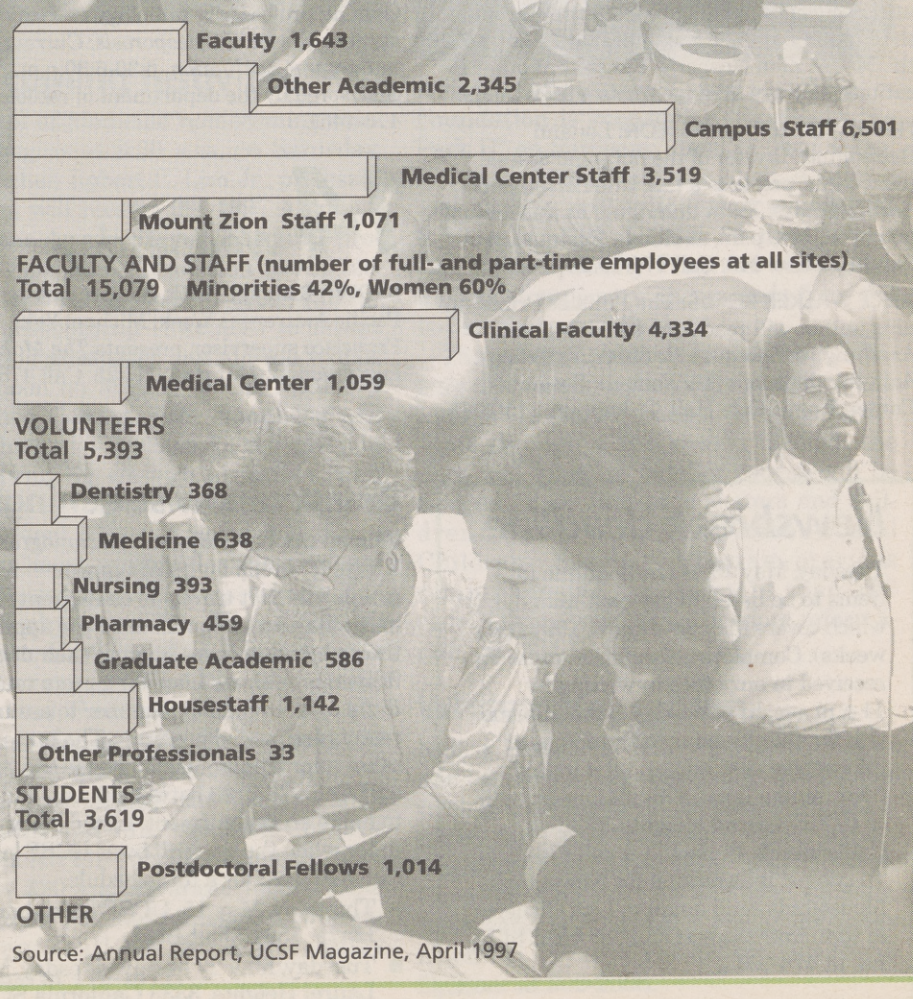
- Archiving of documents related to history of diversity at UCSF
- Planning to create diversity monument on campus
- Evaluating need for consolidation/coordination of diversity resources
- Organizing student focus groups to identify key issues for support and retention
- Expanding Chancellor's Steering Committee on Diversity web site
- Completing analysis of diversity survey to communicate findings
- Training a select group of educators to assist the Affirmative Action/Equal Opportunity Office with diversity education
- Developing a report card to measure progress toward diversity goals

Source: Chancellor's Steering Committee on Diversity, May 1997

INSIDE UCSF

A look at who's on campus

UCSF's faculty, staff and student population decreased slightly in 1995/96. Campus staff recorded their largest decline, dropping by 344 that fiscal year.



Source: Annual Report, UCSF Magazine, April 1997

May 10–23, 1997



JAPANESE ART EXHIBIT: This wood block print made in Utagawa, Japan dates back to the 19th century. An advertisement for stomach medication, this print is part of UCSF's East Asian Collection, a portion of which will be displayed in the first floor gallery of the library through September 1. The majority of prints gathered for this collection focus on health, whether depicting disease or prominent physicians, or advertising Japanese medications from that period.

10 Saturday

WOMEN WRITE: LaDonna BlueEye, an assistant project director at UCSF's department of physiological nursing who earned a journalism degree from the University of Central Oklahoma, presents a hands-on writing workshop, 10 a.m.-3 p.m., to be held in a wooded setting in the Presidio. Sponsored by the Women's Resource Center. Call 476-5222.

FILM AND BENEFIT: *The World of Apu*, by the Academy Award-winning Indian director Satyajit Ray will be shown at 7:30 p.m. in Cole Hall. Indian snacks will be sold to benefit education for underprivileged children in India.

THE PARNASSUS PLAYERS: The campus theater troupe presents its last performance of *The Good Woman of Setzuan,* a play by Berthold Brecht, 8 p.m., Toland Hall.

11 Sunday

MOTHER'S DAY

12 Monday

UCSF CELEBRATES NATIONAL HOSPITALS WEEK

In keeping with this year's theme, *It Takes Many Stars to Light Up the Sky,* Medical Center administration will recognize each staff member for their contribution by distributing vouchers redeemable for snacks from the Moffitt Cafe, the Cartwheel at MCB and the Mount Zion Nosherie. For staff at other locations, delivery arrangements will be made.

FRIENDS OF LPPI LUNCHEON: Louann Brizendine, director of the hormone assessment clinic, presents a talk titled *Mood and Sex Hormones: Youth and Aging* at this annual luncheon, 12-2 p.m., at Harris' Restaurant in San Francisco. $40. Call 476-7033.

ALICE WALKER READS: The Pulitzer Prize-winning author will read from her new book, *Anything We Love Can Be Saved: A Writer's Activism* to benefit the Women's Resource Center, 7 p.m., Cole Hall. Tickets are $15/10 in advance, $20/15 at the door. Call 476-5222.

FREE DENTAL WORK: Those who attend a free dental screening, 7 p.m., at 707 Parnassus, may qualify for a free deep cleaning, filling or crown. Other screenings will be held May 13, 19, 20, 27 and June 2, 3, and 10. Call 476-9600.

13 Tuesday

NEWSBREAK/MEDSOUNDS DEADLINE FOR NEXT ISSUE

NEW EMPLOYEE ORIENTATION: S 214, 8:30-10:30 a.m., call Leonard Florendo at 476-1073 to schedule.

TAY SACHS SCREENING FOR PREGNANT COUPLES: Sponsored by the Northern California Tay-Sachs Disease Prevention Program. For appointments, call 476-4080.

HUMAN RIGHTS LECTURE: Eric Stover, director of the human rights center at UC Berkeley presents a lecture titled *Genocide and Human Rights: Bosnia and Rwanda,* 12-1 p.m., N 217. The event is sponsored by Amnesty International at UCSF. Call 566-8406.

ASIAN PACIFIC AMERICAN WEEK KEYNOTE SPEAKER: Mayumi Oda, internationally recognized artist will discuss her work as a painter/printmaker and its connection to her role as founder of Plutonium Free Future, 12:10-1 p.m., Toland Hall.

EMPACT! PARTY: Find out what EMPACT! is all about, eat ice cream and win prizes, 4-6 p.m., Millberry Conference Center. RSVP by Thursday, May 6 to 476-2675.

STEINBACH MEMORIAL LECTURE: Harry K. Genant, professor of radiology and orthopaedic surgery, presents *Osteoporosis: Current Trends in Imaging Evaluation,* 5:30-6:30 p.m., N 225. Sponsored by the department of radiology. Call 476-1451.

14 Wednesday

BROWN BAG LECTURE: As part of Asian-Pacific Awareness Week, Michael Yaki, San Francisco supervisor, presents *The Making of a Legislator,* 12:10-1 p.m., N 225. Call 476-4394.

15 Thursday

BROWN BAG LECTURE: Claude Hemphill, director of UCSF/SFGH Neurovascular Service, presents *Stroke: An Ounce of Prevention is Worth a Pound of Cure,* 12-1 p.m., MCB 125. Call 476-4394.

FILIPINO CULTURAL FESTIVAL: In commemoration of Asian Pacific American Celebration Week, 12-1 p.m., Millberry Union. Sponsored by EMPACT! Call 476-6932.

SAME GENDER SEXUAL HARASSMENT TALK: The office of sexual harassment prevention and resolution sponsors this presentation, 12-1:30 p.m., in Toland Hall. Registration is not mandatory but the program sponsors request RSVPs to 476-5186 to determine expected attendance.

UC RETIREMENT SYSTEM MEETING: Learn about the features and rules of the UC 403(b) retirement plan and basic concepts of investing, noon, N 729. Conducted by the UCSF Office of Benefits and Financial Planning.

MEDICAL ANTHROPOLOGY LECTURE: Robert Edgerton, professor of psychiatry and biobehavioral sciences at UCLA, presents *Some people really know how to be old: Community adaptation of older people with mild mental retardation,* 12-1:30 p.m., N 721. Call 476-7234.

UPDATE IN INFECTIOUS DISEASES: Henry Chambers, chief in the division of infectious diseases, to deliver this talk, 12-1 p.m., N 225. Call 206-8666.

COLE HALL CINEMA: Millberry Arts & Performances presents *Jerry Maguire* (rated R). Children under 14 pay $2; UCSF students and MU members, $2.50; UCSF staff, seniors and other students, $3; general public, $3.50. Cole Hall. 5:45 p.m. and 8:30 p.m. (Film subject to change). Call 476-2542 or visit www.ArtsPerf.ucsf.edu.

HOSPITAL MERGER ETHICS PANEL MEETS: Panel discusses impact of hospital mergers on quality of care. 6-8 p.m. Bar Association Auditorium, 685 Market St. Call 399-3900.

16 Friday

HEALING TAO SYSTEM: Learn how to strengthen inner organs, release negative emotions and enhance functioning of the mind, muscles and bones, 12-1 p.m., N 225. Call 330-5353.

COLE HALL CINEMA: Millberry Arts & Performances presents *Jerry Maguire* (rated R). Showings at 6:30 p.m. and 9:15 p.m. See May 15 for ticket information.

17 Saturday

SELF DEFENSE FOR BOYS AND GIRLS: Sponsored by the Women's Resource Center, this program is for children ages 8 to 12, 1:30-5:30 p.m., Millberry Union Fitness Center. Call 476-5222.

UCSF GOSPEL CHOIR: *It's Time to Praise the Lord* will be performed, 7 p.m., at the Neighborhood Baptist Church, 608 Hayes St. $5. Call 476-2542.

18 Sunday

ASIAN PACIFIC CONCERT: The internationally renowned urban jazz band Hiroshima presents a special UCSF performance to celebrate the 10th anniversary of Asian Pacific American Celebration Week, 7 p.m., Herbst Theater, 401 Van Ness. Tickets are $15 for students and $20 for staff and can only be purchased at Millberry Central Desk or satellite EMPACT! locations. Call 476-6932.

Location Key

ACC – Ambulatory Care Center, 400 Parnassus
C – Clinical Sciences Building, 521 Parnassus
CL – Campus Library, 530 Parnassus
HSW – Health Sciences West
MU – Millberry Union, 500 Parnassus
N – School of Nursing, enter at 513 Parnassus
S – Medical Sciences Building, 513 Parnassus
VAMC – Veterans Affairs Medical Center, 4150 Clement

19 Monday

DISCUSSION OF TEENAGE PREGNANCY: Claire Brindis, director of the center for reproductive health policy research, presents as part of the Institute for Health Policy Studies' *Beyond the Birds and the Bees: Contemporary Issues in Reproductive Health Policy,* 12-1:30 p.m., seminar room at 1388 Sutter St. Call 476-4921.

BETTER VISION NOW: David Hwang, UCSF associate professor of ophthalmology, will talk about new surgery options for the correction of nearsightedness and astigmatism – from laser surgery to corneal implants. UCSF Beckman Vision Center, 8 Kirkham Street. 6 p.m. Free. Call 476-5021.

20 Tuesday

LONG-TERM CARE PLANNING: Learn to identify appropriateness and needs of long-term care. Understand Medicare, medical HMOs and insurance options, 9-11 a.m., Hellman Conference Room, Mount Zion. Co-sponsored by Brown & Toland Medical Group. Call 800-CALL-MDs.

UPROOTING RACISM: Focus group designed to open a dialogue about racism, noon. For location, call 476-5837.

BROWN BAG LECTURE: Tom Ferguson, senior associate at the Center for Clinical Computing at Harvard Medical School, presents *Health Online and the Empowered Medical Consumer,* 12-1 p.m., Herbst Hall, Mount Zion. Call 476-4394.

TRANSFORMING TRAUMA INTO PERSONAL POWER: Leona Tockey, a writer, therapist and survivor of incest, talks about her experiences, 12:10 p.m., N 217. Call 476-5222.

21 Wednesday

BROWN BAG LECTURE: Tom Ferguson, senior associate at the Center for Clinical Computing at Harvard Medical School, presents *Health Online and the Empowered Medical Consumer,* 12:10 p.m., N 225. Call 476-4394.

22 Thursday

ANNUAL SAFETY FAIRE: Topics for this year's exhibits include back safety/ergonomics, fire prevention, infection control, personal security, waste management, earthquake preparedness and electrical safety, 10 a.m.-2 p.m., Moffitt cafeteria. Sponsored by the UCSF Medical Center.

MEETING OF UCSF WEB AFFILIATES: All persons affiliated with the creation and maintenance of UCSF web sites are invited to discuss the advantages and disadvantages of available products and general information about developing web pages for the University, 3-5 p.m., RSVP is requested. Send all replies and inquiries to rsease@itsa.ucsf.edu

23 Friday

HOSPITAL NEW EMPLOYEE ORIENTATION: Langley Porter Auditorium. 8:30 a.m.-1 p.m. Department personnel representatives call John Frank at 476-3001.

GOLD-HEADED CANE AWARDS: See upcoming events, next page, School of Medicine Commencement Ceremonies.

Newsbreak deadline

Tuesday, May 13, is the deadline for items to be listed in the next calendar, which covers May 24–June 6, 1997 (two weeks). Complete information must be received in our office in writing by 11 a.m. on that Tuesday. Send information for the calendar to Brad Foss at (bfoss@itsa.ucsf. edu), mail it to Box 0462, send a fax to 476-3541, or bring it to UCSF/ Laurel Heights, 3333 California St., Suite 103 or call 476-3163. To submit information for Newsbreak/ Medsounds send email to Lisa Cisneros at (cisnero@itsa.ucsf.edu), or fax it to her at 476-3541.

Breast cancer screenings

Women can have low-cost mammograms — X-rays to screen for breast cancer — from a mobile van that travels to convenient locations in the Bay Area.Women need the approval of their physician, in addition to their doctor's full name, address (including room number & zip code) and phone number to assure that results are mailed promptly. The procedure takes approximately 20 minutes and costs $75. Call 476-2193 between 9 a.m. and 3 p.m. to make an appointment. Listed below are dates when the van will be at UCSF locations. Call 476-2193 for a full schedule.

- Thursday, May 15, UCSF/Lakeshore Plaza, 1501 Sloat Blvd.
- Tuesday, May 27 and Wednesday, May 28, Laurel Heights, 3333 California St.



Hiroshima

What's Happening

Regular meetings and ongoing support groups

Sunday

Healing Garden Working Days: UCSF/Mount Zion Cancer Center Healing Garden, 2356 Sutter. Call for dates: 885-3693.*

Monday

Art for Recovery: Monday and Thursday afternoons. Cancer Center, Infusion Center, second floor. Call Cindy Perlis at 885-7221.

Drop-in Support Group for Women Living with HIV/AIDS: Free lunch and beverages provided. A 45. 11 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Call 476-2417 or 476-9289.

Health Professionals in Recovery: For physicians, nurses, dentists, pharmacists, PhDs and others. Anonymous, 12-step emphasis. Meets twice a month. Noon. Call 476-8279.

Friends of Lois Al-Anon Meeting: Closed meeting: for friends & families of alcoholics only. Room 521, MCB. After Jan. 1, will meet in Room 3, MCB. Noon. Call 626-5633.

Breast Cancer Support Group: J 223, UCSF/Mount Zion Cancer Center, 2356 Sutter. 6-7:30 p.m. Pre-registration required. Call Debra Marks at 885-7415 ext. 42529.

Colorectal Cancer Support: Second and fourth Mondays. Room 114, UCSF/Mount Zion Cancer Center, 2356 Sutter. 6:30-8:00 p.m. Call 885-7585.*

Melanoma Support Groups: Meets first and third Mondays for patients and family members. Room 114, UCSF/Mount Zion Cancer Center, 2356 Sutter. 6:30-8:30 p.m. 885-7585*

AIDS Health Project Workshop: For anyone dealing with HIV or AIDS in themselves or others. Gazebo Room, Davies Medical Center 7-9 p.m. Call 476-3902.*

Tuesday

SFGH Circle of Sisters: Monthly networking forum for black women working and studying at UCSF/SFGH. Call 206-8314.

UCSF Staff Council Meeting: Third Tuesdays. 11 a.m.-1 p.m. S 609. Call 476-9977.

MHONA: For victims of trauma with cross disabilities. Ages 15 & over. A 222, LPPI. 10 a.m.-noon. Helpline at 759-7923 provided daily, 7 a.m.-10 p.m.*

Exercise & Physiology Class for Cancer Patients & Survivors: Mount Zion Cardiac Care Gymnasium. 12:30-1:30 p.m. Pre-registration required. Call 885-3693.*

Gospel Choir Rehearsal at UCSF: At MCB, noon. Call 502-0106.*

Parkinson's Disease Education & Support Group: For people with Parkinson's & their caregivers. Third Tuesdays. Christ Church, Lutheran, 1090 Quintara (at 20th Ave.). 2-4 p.m. Call 476-9276.*

Parnassus Players: UCSF's theater group meets first Tuesday at Millberry Union Conference Center. Times vary. Call 921-3231.*

Nurses' Pain Association Meeting: Second Tuesdays. 5:30-7:30 p.m.* Call 476-6100 ext. 40225 for location and topic.

Women's Psychotherapy Group: Langley Porter. 6:00-7:30 p.m. For eligibility requirements and registration call Elaine 931-1958.

Gynecological Cancer Support Group Forming: 6:00-7:30 p.m. For location and registration call Debra Marks at 885-7415 ext. 42529.

UCSF Leukemia Society Family Support Group: Families and patients welcome. Second Tuesdays, 6-7 p.m. Room S-170. Call facilitators first at 476-4052 or 476-5965.

Brain Tumor Support Group: First Tuesdays. C 130. 7:00-8:30 p.m. Call 284-0208.*

Gay Men's Therapy Group: Tuesdays, 6-7:30 p.m. Call 353-7277.*

Wednesday

Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual Association at UCSF Meeting: Second Wednesdays. Members of the Chancellor's Committee on Gay, Lesbian & Bisexual Issues attend. Call 282-9650.

Support Group for Family/Friends of Those with Mental Illness: Call Laura Deering-Mayclin at 476-7394.*

Latin American Campus Association Meeting: Second Wednesdays. HSW 508. Noon. Call Lucia DeLeon at 476-2010.

Latin Women Coalition: For Latina faculty, staff and students. Noon-1 p.m. Call 476-7117.*

Parnassus Al-Anon Meeting: For friends and families of alcoholics. Observers welcome. C 417. Noon-1 p.m. Call 626-5633.*

Tai Chi Classes: Staff welcome. UCSF/Mount Zion Cancer Center. Healing Garden, 2356 Sutter. 12-1 p.m. 885-3693.*

Elder Care Resource Class. Wednesdays 12:00-1:00 p.m. C 258 and Thursdays, 11 a.m.-noon, Room 3 Mission Center Building. Call Jane Mahakian, 476-2692.

Alcoholics Anonymous Meeting: Closed meeting: Conference Room 3, first floor, MCB. 12:05 p.m. Call 621-1326.

MHONA: A 222, LPPI, 1-3 p.m., and N 517, 7-10 p.m. See Tuesday listing.

Trauma/Injury Support Group: First and third Wednesdays. SFGH Library, Bldg. 30, room 3101. 2:30-4 p.m. Call Laurie Barkin at 206-8402 or Dr. Yigal Ben-Haim at 753-1000.

Cultural Diversity Enhancement Committee: Third Wednesdays. 3-4 p.m. L 169. Call 476-2252.

General Cancer Support Group: Room J 223, UCSF/Mount Zion Cancer Center, 2356 Sutter St., 5-7 p.m. Call 885-3693.

Incest Survivor Support Group for Women : Must attend for one year. 5:30-7 p.m. For screening, call 476-7526 or 476-7085.

San Francisco City Chorus Rehearsal: 7 p.m. Call 765-SONG.

Eating Disorders Support Group: Open to anyone dealing with an eating disorder in themselves or others. Meets first and third Wednesday. M 688. 7-8:30 p.m. Call 332-3425.*

Co-Dependents Anonymous Meeting: 12-step program for people with dysfunctional relationships. A119, LPPI. 8-9:30 p.m. Call 432-3529.*

Long-Term Psychotherapy Group: Meets 5:30-7 p.m. Contact Elaine at 476-7442.

Thursday

AWAKE Meeting: Support and education group for people with sleep apnea and their families. Third Thursdays. Bring CPAP equipment for check-up. Call 885-7886.*

Dance Therapy for Cancer Patients: Mount Zion cardiac care gymnasium, 10:30 a.m.-noon.Registration required. Call 885-3693.

Gospel Choir Rehearsal at UCSF: Weekly rehearsals at Parnassus. Noon. Call 502-0106.*

Black Caucus: First Thursdays. Noon. Call KING hotline at 502-KING.

Head & Neck Cancer Surgery Support Groups: Separate groups for patients and families meet on second and fourth Thursdays. J 221, UCSF/Mount Zion Cancer Center, 2356 Sutter. 1-2 p.m. Call first 885-7623.*

Association of Clinical Research Nurses Meeting: Alternates monthly between UCSF and Stanford. 5:45-7:30 p.m. Call 476-0683.*

Prostate Cancer Support Group: Second and fourth Thursdays, 6-7:30 p.m., J 223, UCSF/Mount Zion Cancer Center, 2356 Sutter St. Registration required. Call 885-7415, ext. 42508.

Support Group for Women Living with Life-Altering Illness: Alternate Thursdays. 6-8 p.m. Call 775-2854 to pre-register.*

Friday

Circle of Sisters: Networking forum for black women working and studying at UCSF. Second and third Fridays. Noon-1 p.m. Call 502-5666.

Weight Watchers Meeting: S 159. Noon-12:45 p.m. Call 476-3904.*

Alcoholics Anonymous Meeting: Closed meeting: C 417. 12:10-1 p.m. Call 621-1326.*

Goldman Institute on Aging Caregiver Support Group: First Fridays. $10 per meeting. 3330 Geary Blvd. 2-4 p.m. Call 986-2305.

For information on 12-step and support groups, call the Bay Area Self-Help Center at 772-4357 or the Mental Health Association of San Francisco at 882-6230.*

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UPCOMING EVENTS

Commencement ceremonies

Graduate Division

The Graduate Division commencement will be held on Friday, May 23 at 10 a.m. in Cole Hall. Keynote speaker is Kin-Ping Wong, dean of the School of Natural Sciences at CSU Fresno.

School of Medicine

The School of Medicine commencement will be held on Friday, May 23 at 2 p.m. at the Nob Hill Masonic Center, 1111 California St. Keynote speaker is Daniel Lowenstein, associate professor of neurology, neurological surgery and anatomy. The highest honor a graduating medical student can receive at UCSF, the Gold-Headed Cane, will be awarded to one of the following three nominees: Stephen Cook, Elizabeth M. Mahler or Mary A. Norman. Honorable Mentions will be given to the runners-up.

School of Nursing

The School of Nursing commencement will be held on Friday, May 30, from 6 to 8 p.m., also at the Nob Hill Masonic Center, 1111 California St. Shirley Chater, Regents professor at the Institute for Health and Aging, will present a speech titled "From Training Wheels to Bicycles."

Psychiatry Department

The Department of Psychiatry commencement will be held on Friday, June 6 at 1 p.m. in Toland Hall. David Spiegel, professor and associate chair in the department of psychiatry and behavioral sciences at Stanford University, will speak on "Minding the Body: Psychotherapy for Extreme Situations."

School of Pharmacy

The School of Pharmacy commencement will be held Saturday, June 21 at 11 a.m. at the Nob Hill Masonic Center, 1111 California St. Keynote speaker will be Mary Ann Koda-Kimble, chair of UCSF's department of clinical pharmacy. This year's nominees for the Bowl of Hygeia award are David Barbour, Marie Belshe, Darren Lew, Sandy Tan and Winnie Wong.

School of Dentistry

The School of Dentistry commencement will be held on Saturday, June 21 at 4 p.m. at the Nob Hill Masonic Center, 1111 California St. Arthur Dugoni, dean of the School of Dentistry at the University of the Pacific, will speak on "The Station."

Homecoming festivities

The School of Medicine homecoming celebration begins at 8:30 a.m. on Saturday, May 17, when Robert C. Lim Jr., professor of surgery, will receive the 1997 Alumnus of the Year Award during a lecture program in Cole Hall. Admission to the lecture is free, but reservations are required.

The homecoming luncheon to honor outstanding graduates and alumni will be held at noon on May 17 in the Millberry Conference Center. Sara Noonberg will receive the Sadie Berkove Award, given to an outstanding woman graduate, and Lisa Nelson will receive the Robert H. Crede Student Award, presented to a student who "most exemplifies the personal and professional characteristics of a primary care physician." The Alumni-Faculty Association Academic Excellence Awards will be presented to Charles Della Santina and Fernando Velayos for all-around excellence while Steve Cook will receive its student service award.

Also at homecoming, the Class of 1947 will be initiated into the Half-Century Club.Tickets for the homecoming luncheon are $20 and advanced reservations are required. For more information on either event, call the Alumni-Faculty Association at 476-1471.

Pediatrics course

The 30th Annual Advances and Controversies in Clinical Pediatrics will run from Thursday, May 15 through Saturday, May 17 at the Ritz Carlton Hotel in San Francisco. Registration begins at 7:30 a.m. on May 15. Intended for pediatricians and family practitioners the course focuses on recent developments in genetics, infectious diseases and neonatology. For registration information, call 476-5808.

Volunteer opportunities

UCSF offers students many opportunities to volunteer at the Medical Centers on Parnassus and at Mount Zion this summer. Students ages 14 and up are encouraged to participate. Students must be willing to commit to four hours per week for eight weeks. Call 476-1196 to volunteer at the Medical Center on Parnassus or 885-7835 to give a helping hand at Mount Zion.

Helen Nahm lecture

Jeanie Schmit Kayser-Jones, professor in the department of physiological nursing and the medical anthropology program, presents "The Silence of Old Age: The Quality of Care in Nursing Homes," at the School of Nursing's 17th Annual Helen Nahm Lecture on Friday, May 30, 10 a.m., in N 225.

The award honors the late Helen Nahm, dean of the UCSF School of Nursing from 1958 to 1969.

Financial planning help

Leona Lau, a certified tax and financial planning specialist, presents "Be Your Own Financial Planner," tips from a pro on how to design your own portfolio and avoid common planning mistakes, on Saturday, May 31 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. in S 214.

Skate with Yamaguchi



Kristi Yamaguchi's Always Dream Foundation is sponsoring "Skates in the Park II" on Saturday, June 21 from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. in Golden Gate Park. A dinner and auction will follow that evening at 6:30 p.m. The UCSF Women's and Children's Specialty Program will receive a boost of support with proceeds from the in-line skating festival.

The general public is invited to participate and entrance fees start at $25, which includes entertainment, a recreational skate through a 10K course through the park and lunch. A smaller course will be designated for first-time skaters and children. Each year, the Women's and Children's Specialty Program provides comprehensive care to more than 250 clients living with HIV. For more information, call 334-PARK.

Whitewater rafting

Raft a Class III river with your friends and colleagues. One-day group whitewater rafting trips for up to 16 people are organized for UCSF students and staff by Outdoors Unlimited from May through October. The cost is $45 per person. Reservations must be made at least one month in advance. For details, call David Delfiner at 502-2508.



Michele Firpo

Public Affairs' representative Joe Rosato, right, discusses future water and energy saving projects with Dave Bohler, a manager in the utilities division of Facilities Management, after they received kudos at the recent PG&E customer appreciation award ceremony.

PG&E praises campus for efforts

Facilities Management, which launched the Energy & Water Awareness Program last year with Public Affairs representatives Joe Rosato and Michele Firpo, was awarded by PG&E for a combination of its earth-friendly efforts.

A highlight of the year-long campaign was the recent Earth Day fair, which attracted scores of participants who learned about the myriad ways local organizations are helping to protect the planet.

Facilities Management also was commended for its lighting retrofit projects throughout campus and for the cost savings to be generated by the recent opening of the cancer research center on the UCSF/Mount Zion campus, says Dave Bohler, a Facilities Management manager.



UCSF received a $70,000 rebate recently based on an analysis of the substantial savings projected due to the building's energy-efficient design and use of features such as chillers, fans, windows, shading and lighting, Bohler says.

MEDICAL CALL BOARD

Aging and Alzheimer's

The UCSF/Mount Zion Center on Aging is conducting a study to examine the relationship between one of the body's major circulating hormones (DHEA) and the cognitive, behavioral and quality of life changes associated with aging and Alzheimer's disease. Researchers are looking for normal healthy elders and persons with Alzheimer's disease who are 55 years and older. Participants may receive an MRI at the SF Veterans Medical Center free of charge. Evaluations may be done in the participant's home (three visits over an 18-month period). Participants may be compensated $75 if they complete all visits. For more information, call Pam Walton at 750-4177.

Breast cancer and diet

The General Clinical Research Center is conducting a study of women ages 18 to 70 who have been diagnosed and treated for breast cancer within the past four years.

Researchers want to know whether a diet high in fruits and vegetables and low in fats can reduce the risk of breast cancer. Many studies have suggested that diet may have an important role in the development of breast cancer and its recurrence. The study will require participants to report their eating habits periodically, be assigned by chance to one of two healthy diets and follow this diet for eight years. Benefits of this national study include getting a professional analysis of current dietary patterns. For more information, call Judy Brodsky, program coordinator, at 510/429-2580.

Dementia, memory loss

The UCSF/Mount Zion Center on Aging is also conducting a research study to evaluate a new experimental drug treatment to determine whether it can improve some of the symptoms of Alzheimer's disease or dementia due to a previous stroke. Participants must be age 41 or older and have a caregiver/relative that visits daily. Participants will receive free medical tests related to study procedures, which may include an MRI. Monetary compensation for participation is available. For more information, call Meryl Brod at 386-3100 or 469-4161.

Depression

The UCSF department of psychiatry is seeking volunteers to participate in a study on the role of two steroid hormones, cortisol and DHEA, in depression.

Participants must meet the criteria for major depression and have no serious health problems. Weekly morning visits are required during the seven-week study. Visits will include a blood draw and mood and memory assessment. Investigational treatment medication and a thorough evaluation of depression by the study physicians for clinical referrals will be provided at no charge. Interested individuals should contact Audrey Keebler at 476-5858.

Storehouse offers treasures among junk

By ANDY EVANGELISTA

It's like a garage sale every Thursday afternoon at the UCSF Storehouse in Oyster Point. In addition to the usual desks, chairs and file cabinets, these items sold recently: an IV pole for $15; a lamp from a clinic exam room for $25; a heart research lab's old stationary bicycle for $35; and a semi-working, seven-foot wide display refrigerator — minus the cafeteria's salad special and luncheon meat platter — for a cool $100.

When equipment becomes worn or obsolete, UCSF departments call Francisco Ruvalcaba, who manages the 10-person staff of the Storage and Surplus unit. Other campus offices and labs get first crack at surplus items — the monthly "excess property" flier, for example, recently listed a biological safety cabinet for $1,500 and a 1990 Dodge 15-passenger van for $6,500. If these go unclaimed by campus offices after 30 days, they go on sale to bargain-hunting members of the public.

"It's true what they say about one person's junk being another person's treasure," says Ruvalcaba, who has dealt the UCSF stuff for 16 years. The surplus materials section occupies only about one-tenth of the airplane hangar-sized warehouse at the campus satellite in South San Francisco. The majority of the space is storage for UCSF departments. Some 200,000 boxes of records, thousands of X-rays, and new furniture waiting to be moved are housed there.

Judging by what's in store in Ruvalcaba's "garage," however, UCSF departments get their money's worth from their equipment. Items such as refrigerators that kept gels and other experiments fresh, are too worn even for the junk dealers, and will have to be hauled off and tossed. But only two percent of the equipment that goes to the surplus unit ends up as real junk, he says. Most of the rest is either claimed by campus departments or sold to members of the public.

Other items are indeed treasure to some, and Ruvalcaba often is a broker of UCSF goodwill. Schools, for example, often end up with old microscopes, computer screens and classroom furniture. It's free to schools and non-profit groups, as long as they send someone to pick it up. Last year, some surplus medical supplies were sent to Bosnia, and when UCSF/Mount Zion got new beds, one group purchased for cheap the old ones and shipped them to hospitals in the Philippines.

But Ruvalcaba is still waiting for bids on the bunch of centrifuges on display on the storeroom floor.

(Surplus property sales to the general public are held every Thursday, 1 to 3:30 p.m., at the UCSF Storehouse, 612 Forbes Blvd., South San Francisco. The "Excess Property Sale" list of items can be found in the Material Management Department web site.)

NEWS BRIEFS

Child care openings

The UCSF Child Center at Mission Center has immediate openings for children ages two to five. For more information, call Jane Mahakian at 476-2692. Students may call Pauline Lee at 502-7816.

Elder care support

Licensed clinician Jane Mahakian leads a 10-week confidential support group to begin Thursday, May 7, from noon to 1 p.m. on the Parnassus campus. For more information, call Mahakian at 476-2692.

AIDS funding available

HIV/AIDS pilot study research funds are available from the UCSF AIDS Clinical Research Center (ACRC), a component of the UCSF AIDS Research Institute (ARI). The deadline for the next funding cycle is Monday, June 30. Applicants can submit studies in basic science, epidemiology, behavioral science, as well as clinical trials. Predoctoral students interested in getting involved in AIDS research are also eligible to apply.

ACRC also seeks faculty members interested in peer reviewing the pilot studies. Peer reviewers fill out confidential forms addressing the merits of proposals within their field of expertise.

For more information and applications, call Layne Ethington at 476-8857 or by email, stom%layne@ccmail.ucsf.edu.

UC revises academic personnel manual

The University proposes making revisions to academic personnel to establish a new section (715) to recognize commitment to and compliance with federal and state regulations and to provide a simplified framework for administering the Federal Family and Medical Leave Act and the California Family Rights Act.

The proposed changes can be found at www.ucop.edu/acadadv/acadpers/apm/review.html. Those who do not have access to the web site can call Stella Kiyota at 476-4574 to request a copy. To comment on this change, please send comments to Diane Dillon at Box 0400 or via email at dillond@itsa.ucsf.edu by June 6.

In addition, sections 710 and 760 will update sick leave, vacation leave and childbearing leave, parental leave and active service-modified duties. Section 710 extends the definition of family members to include an appointee's child, parent, spouse, sibling, grandparent, grandchild; in-laws, and step relatives in the listed relationships and other persons residing in the appointee's house. Section 760 retains provisions that academic appointees who do not accrue sick leave may receive up to six weeks paid childbearing leave.

Fulbright opportunities

Opportunities for lecturing or advanced research in nearly 130 countries are available to University faculty, academic administrators and professionals outside academe through the Fulbright Scholar Program. Every academic rank is eligible and all disciplines participate. Awards range from two months to a full academic year. Basic requirements include US citizenship and the PhD or comparable professional qualifications. The deadline for the 1988-89 competition is Friday, Aug. 1. In related news, the Fulbright student program for 1998-99 is now open for competition for study or research abroad. Applicants may propose formal study, independent study, research or an unpaid internship, depending on the requirements of the country's program. All professional school and graduate students, as well as medical residents or other doctors who wish to continue medical or hospital training or to obtain additional clinical experience are eligible. Applicants must be US citizens and have a bachelor's degree or its equivalent. The campus deadline for submission is Monday, Sept. 8. For applications call 502-2962 or stop by UCSF International Academic Programs, 145 Irving St., Suite 103. For more information about the program, see the Fulbright web site at www.iie.org/fulbright/.

Funding for drug treatment

Funds up to $3,000 per project for pilot research studies on substance abuse treatment are available through the San Francisco Treatment Research Center (TRC.)

The San Francisco TRC is funded for a five-year period by the National Institute of Drug Abuse to study innovative interventions and treatment-related variables through well-controlled clinical trials in drug abuse.

The primary intent of the pilot study is to encourage postdoctoral fellows and psychiatry residents to develop treatment-improvement research in substance abuse and to encourage research in ethnic minorities' and women's issues. Priority will be given to studies that have the potential to lead to full-scale independently funded projects and have a high probability of resulting in publication in a major peer-reviewed journal.

It is essential that applicants be enrolled in recognized training programs at UCSF, the San Francisco VAMC or San Francisco General Hospital and that they have close guidance from a faculty sponsor affiliated with TRC. Applications can be submitted at any time during the year. For an application, call Cathy Jacob at 206-3971.

Four marketeers pave way to top tertiary care

By BRAD FOSS

In remote regions of California, patients have neither the luxury, nor the convenience of nearby academic medical centers, the bastions of innovative tests and procedures.

And when it comes to treating the most rare and complex conditions in these areas, general practitioners and specialists alike often defer care to the leaders in their fields, many of whom work hundreds of miles away at UCSF.

From fetal and neurological surgery to cancer treatment and transplants — cases too demanding to be resolved by the state's best local experts frequently wind up being referred to UCSF.

Helping to pave the way to top tertiary care, UCSF's referral liaisons trek as far north as the Oregon border to meet with doctors, medical group and health plan directors and leaders of community hospitals to assess their needs and acquaint them with UCSF specialty services.

A division of the Medical Center's marketing department, liaisons collect market intelligence, serve as the single coordinator in referring and scheduling patients to see one or many specialists and demystify the bureaucracy of UCSF for outlying health plans, physicians and medical groups. At times, it means personally meeting the patient at Parnassus or Mount Zion and walking with them to their appointment. The goal is to build trust with referring physicians.

"Ideally, we act as an extension of their services," says Kathy McHenry, a referral liaison. "We help guide them to the right specialist."

As the University's ambassadors in the field, referral liaisons understand how UCSF fits into the highly competitive marketplace for patient care, providing the raw data later used by the entire department of strategic development. For instance, liaisons might pinpoint regions where doctors are unable to access health care at UCSF because the dominant health insurer in that area does not contract with the University.

Referring physicians have many choices when it comes to referring patients. And, when possible, insurers would rather have patients treated locally.

"Basically, it comes down to beating our competitors with better services," says Eleanor Pepples, who works with liaison team members Terry Markiewicz and Cara Towle, who represents UCSF's services internationally.

UCSF's reputation among referring physicians wasn't always so rosy. Before the days of the liaison service, referring physicians sometimes found that patients whom they referred to the University were never seen or heard from again.

That UCSF pejoratively has been called a "black hole" is a very real problem, says Nancy Ascher, director of tertiary care services.

Ascher, too, meets with outside medical directors, and reports back to her colleagues. "We've been working on how we can communicate better with referring physicians. They don't want to lose touch with their patients, and as a physician, I can understand that," she says.

"Sending our doctors to the community," Ascher adds, "is a great way to train physicians and meet the needs of the community."

While UCSF's reputation for medical excellence is widely known – practicing alumni do a great job of representing that reputation – the liaisons are strengthening relationships with referring physicians. Simply put, their work personalizes the institution.



Michele Firpo

From left, referral liasons Kathy McHenry, Eleanor Pepples, and Terry Markiewicz.

Eye laser gets green light for astigmatism

A special excimer laser, which has been used by UCSF opthalmologists to correct nearsightedness, was approved recently by the FDA to also treat astigmatism.

In the procedure, called photoastigmatic refractive keratectomy, UCSF cornea specialists use the laser — manufactured by VISX Inc. of Santa Clara, Cali f.— to reshape the curvature of the cornea, the transparent window of the eye that covers the iris and the pupil and that admits light into the eye's interior.

During the procedure, the excimer laser removes microscopic amounts of tissue from the surface of the cornea, making the central zone flatter. The flattened cornea is then able to focus light more directly on the retina, thereby reducing astigmatism and nearsightedness. Typically the entire treatment lasts less than 15 minutes and the excimer laser beam is used on the eye for less than a minute.

The excimer laser is unique because it emits a cold, or non-thermal, light beam. "It is ideal for corneal surgery because it eliminates the possibility of heat damage to surrounding tissue," says Richard Abbott, UCSF professor of ophthalmology and co-director of the UCSF Vision Correction Center. For more information on treatments or clinical studies to correct astigmatism and nearsightedness, call 476-5021.

Melanoma (from page 8)

perior treatment. This is what we want to find out," Kashani-Sabet said.

The treatment is administered after surgery and on patients who display no evidence of disease. The patients are at high risk for recurrence, however.

Preventing relapses and improving the survival rate of patients is the goal of the trial, according to Kashani-Sabet.

Since opening in 1971, the UCSF Melanoma Center has served more than 5,000 patients, providing one of the world's largest melanoma databases.

Although 80 percent of the patients seen at the center are at low risk for a recurrence, a variety of treatments including vaccines, chemotherapy and immunotherapies are being developed for patients requiring more aggressive therapy.

For information on the study, contact the UCSF Melanoma Center at 415/885-7546.

Save your skin

With the arrival of summer, it's important to remember to guard against intense sun exposure — the kind that leads to sunburns.

But wearing brimmed hats and using sunblock rated at least SPF 15 does not give sun worshippers a license to bake.

As with all cancers, early detection improves the chances of a cure with appropriate surgery, according to "Everyone's Guide to Cancer Therapy." Sun bathers can look for these signs and symptoms, which usually occur in sequence: darkening of an existing mole or an increase in its size, irregularity of margins and elevation of the lesion. Itching is common as is scaling or crusting of the lesion.

Chaplains offer comfort in time of crisis

In the closing days of her training as a chaplain at UCSF/Mount Zion, Elizabeth Goldstein comforted a woman suffering from cancer. She didn't talk to her about dying, or God, or life's unanswered questions.

"I held her hand. She just fell asleep with me holding her hand," Goldstein said. "Sometimes it's not about having any big discussions. Sometimes it's just holding someone's hand."

Goldstein and a group of chaplain interns discovered more about living and dying during an intense seven-month program that ended recently at UCSF/Mount Zion.

In a program of the department of Pastoral Care & Education at UCSF/Mount Zion Medical Center, eight chaplain interns spent part of their weeks counseling patients with cancer, HIV/AIDS, and other life-threatening illnesses. The students, ranging in age and faith, also got a lesson in working intimately as part of an interfaith group.

The student interns not only learned from working with patients facing illness, their work also helped ease the burden of hospital staff who feel a time crunch.

"We can become very busy, and a lot of time, patients just want to talk," said Robert Wolgamuth, a nurse in the infusion center at the UCSF/Mount Zion Cancer Center. "The interns were able to come in and spend an hour with patients. They provided support and sensitivity that complemented the services we provide."

Now in its fourth year, the chaplaincy program is supervised by Rabbi Jeffery Silberman, director of Pastoral Care and Education at the medical center.

"These chaplaincy interns serve the hospital community while building basic ministry skills. It is an essential element for UCSF/Mount Zion in being able to provide holistic care for its patients," Silberman said.

The graduating interns include: Daniel King, Bruce Curtis, Elizabeth Robinson, Roy Gesley, Kay Landers, and Jacincta Martinez, S.N.D.L.

The interns finished up their own hospital stay amid laughter and tears during a graduation ceremony April 16 that was attended by family members, hospital administrators, physicians, nurses and housestaff.

The pastoral care training programs at UCSF/Mount Zion are supported by Mount Zion Health Systems Inc.

— Dale Martin



Dave Milward

Elizabeth Goldstein, Jacinta Martinez, SNDL, Kay Landers and Daniel King were among the graduates of the Chaplaincy Internship Program. They were in the extended program, receiving 800 hours of clinical training.

USHC (from page 8)

health care staff at UCSF, Stanford Health Services (SHS) and Lucile Salter Packard Children's Hospital (LPCH.) The newsletter and a forthcoming twice-montly companion piece called "Faculty Focus" will be prepared by the transition team currently at work at Executive Park to prepare the way for the merger. Faculty Focus will address topics related to developing the physician organization.

Medical Center employees will continue to receive Newsbreak/Medsounds and other communications currently produced at UCSF.

USHC invites employees to comment and make suggestions about the merger through a hotline number, 656-4646 or by sending email messages to communications@ushc.org.

In other news, Felix Barthelemy, USHC vice president of human resources, met with managers at UCSF, UCSF/Mount Zion, SHS and LPCH to update them on personnel issues and decisions to date. For example, UCSF Stanford employees will not be required to apply for positions, except in areas where there is the potential for consolidation at start-up.

Letters of job offers will be sent to employees at home. It's planned that these letters will include the title, pay rate and full-time equivalent commitment along with a description of employee benefits. Employees will have at least 15 days to respond to offers. USHC remains committed to offering positions to at least 95 percent of current medical center employees. Significant efforts are under way to reach conclusions regarding all of the employment and benefits issues, says Barthelemy. His goal is to have most of this accomplished by the end of May.

Other issues highlighted in Transition Times include:

- **Compensation:** Where pay differences exist for comparable jobs at the different USHC campuses, officials will wait until after the merger is complete to develop a comprehensive compensation system. At that time, equity and market issues will be addressed across the organization.
- **Retirement:** USHC will offer a retirement plan to employees. It is anticipated the plan will be a defined contribution plan. USHC is also considering offering retiree health benefits.
- **Health plans:** USHC will offer medical, dental and vision plans. A point of service medical plan and HMOs will be offered. Specific plans and employee premium payments have yet to be determined.

UCSF
Medsounds

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1 Frank McCormick to direct UCSF Cancer Center

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UCSF tests therapy to thwart melanoma

By DALE MARTIN

In response to a rise in malignant melanoma cases, UCSF researchers are intensifying efforts to combat this deadliest of skin cancers.

One potential treatment is a biological therapy, which combines a melanoma vaccine (Melacine) with interferon, an effective but potentially toxic therapy when administered by itself. Researchers are hoping the combination of the two agents will be tolerable to the patient and thwart the cancer.

The UCSF Cancer Center is one of 17 sites in the country and the only one in Northern California participating in a national clinical trial to test the therapy.

Some 400 patients nationwide are being sought for the study.

"To offer patients a combination of interferon and Melacine is a very appealing therapeutic approach," says dermatologic oncologist Mohammed Kashani-Sabet, who heads the study at UCSF. "One of the limitations of interferon is that more than one-half of the patients on it relapse."

Reported cases of malignant melanoma have been rising 4 percent a year since 1973 — particularly in sunny climates, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Experts report a 500 percent increase in the incidence of malignant melanoma in the years between 1950 and 1985 and now say that 1 in 84 Americans will develop the skin cancer. Although common in people with pale skin, darker-skinned individuals aren't immune. Melanoma often occurs when a colored mole or freckle turns malignant due to genetic or sun damage, and grows out of control.

While interferon has become the standard of care for melanoma patients, its use has also fallen short of expectations due to its toxicity. Nearly one-quarter of the patients have had to discontinue taking it due to side effects. But researchers have continued to study its use in combination with other agents and have speculated this may hold the key to successful treatments in the future.

"The thinking is that combining interferon with the vaccine will provide a su-

(See **Melanoma** on page 7)



Chris T. Anderson

Anesthetist for a day

Joan Howley, assistant clinical professor of anesthesiology, guides Patricia Romero who visited the Medical Center during "Take Our Daughters to Work Day" at UCSF. Some 700 girls and boys participated in more than 50 programs during the annual event held at various campus locations on April 24.

Merger date now set for September 1

UCSF Stanford Health Care officials announced that the target date for the merger of clinical services of both universities is now set for September 1.

At its weekly meeting, the senior administrative group agreed upon the new date. "This is our goal and certainly we have to remain flexible and respond to any difficulties we encounter in the coming months, but we hope to achieve this timeline," said Peter Van Etten, CEO for UCSF Stanford Health Care.

The original date for completion of the merger was set for July 1, but much work remains to be done. By mid-July, officials hope to obtain approval of final merger documents and legal agreements from both the UC Regents and the Stanford University Board of Trustees. Following that step, job offer letters can be distributed, acceptances processed and the new payroll set up. The projected first payroll period for UCSF Stanford Health Care employees would begin Monday, Sept. 1.

The management team also agreed to the goals of communicating benefits decisions and the organization structure as soon as decisions have been finalized, hopefully by early June.

Meanwhile, in an effort to provide employees with quick, timely updates on merger-related activity, decisions and plans, UCSF Stanford Health Care (USHC) unveiled its new weekly newsletter "Transition Times." The newsletter will be published for employees and

(See **USHC** on page 7)

Burkart meets budget challenge

Though hospital stays have been reduced in recent years, patient acuity is on the rise. Managing these dynamics has meant that the department of nursing has had to recalibrate its budgeting process.



Burkart

Kathy Burkart, budget analyst for the department, has been a key player in this effort. With 15 years of experience at UCSF and help from nursing staff, Burkart translates trends in patient populations and health care so that they are accurately reflected in the accounting process.

For her work improving budgetary understanding on both individual and group levels in the department of nursing, Burkart has earned our THANKS.

"During these times when resources need to be justified more and more, it's helpful to have Kathy work with us to quantify how resources are being used," says Maureen Doherty, assistant director of nursing. Doherty says patient education, treatment and the coordinating charge planning are all being performed in a more condensed window of time.

"The standard way to assess workload in the past was to count heads at midnight. But under today's constraints, that's misleading," Burkart says.

Burkart has helped nurses quantify services that have become second nature to them but which can be overlooked when analyzing the bottom line, such as mentally preparing patients for home therapy.

Doherty says Burkart has been especially successful in "enabling managers to better evaluate resource utilization and to strategize more effectively in balancing both clinical and budgetary demands."

THANKS!

"To Honor, Acknowledge, and Note Kindness and Service"

Taking a bite out of Lyme

By BRAD FOSS

As summer approaches, San Franciscans will depart from the city in search of densely wooded trails, remote campsites, and mountain streams. But while the everyday perils of urban living are left behind, the potential dangers of the great outdoors emerge.

One naturally occurring hazard that afflicts otherwise healthy individuals is Lyme disease, a bacteria transferred to humans through the bite of an infected tick.

"These are people who aren't doing what we typically consider to be high-risk behavior," says James Katzel, director of the UCSF Lyme disease and tick-borne disease clinic. "Half of what we do is teach people how to avoid the disease."

Prevention education appears to be paying off. The number of cases of Lyme reported in California, especially in northern counties, has tapered off since 1992. Lyme's threat to California is manageable — there were 228 cases reported in 1992 and only 64 last year, according to the California Department of Health Services.

Ticks carrying the disease latch onto unsuspecting humans in grassy and woodland areas, first extracting a blood meal and then regurgitating a bacteria, called a spirochete, into its new host. They often attach to hidden areas of the human body, such as the groin, armpits and scalp. Left untreated, Lyme disease can cause arthritis, nervous system abnormalities, irregular heartbeat and, in rare situations, death.

A red, expanding skin rash usually alerts doctors to the presence of the disease, for which antibiotics can be prescribed. Other symptoms include fatigue, chills and fever, muscle and joint pain, and swollen lymph nodes.

However, Lyme disease may reside in the blood and tissue of its human host unbeknownst to them for weeks, even months. And as time goes on, diagnosing the disease becomes increasingly complex. "When a patient comes in a month or two later with all the symptoms and says, 'I may have been bitten by a tick, I don't remember seeing a rash,' then it's tough to diagnose," Katzel says.

Indeed, the initial flu-like symptoms of Lyme aren't always associated with the disease by many doctors, Katzel says, because fatigue and malaise are complaints common to other chronic illnesses. On the other hand, some people with Lyme-like symptoms may unfortunately be "looking for something to label themselves with," he says.

If found on the body, ticks should be removed with tweezers by getting as close to the skin as possible and pulling it straight up, without crushing or twisting the body and causing transference of the spirochete.

Like other wilderness safety precautions, such as wearing sunblock and staying hydrated, frequent tick searches are crucial to prevention. "We tell people if you're on a first date and you go hiking, do tick checks on each other, it's a wonderful thing to do," Katzel quips.

Other tick prevention strategies include: wearing long-sleeved shirts and light colored clothing to more easily spot the tiny, blood-thirsty arachnids; tucking pants into socks; and using tick repellent.

Statistically, Katzel admits, it's not prudent to conduct lab tests on every tick found on people.

"It doesn't make sense practically," he says, but folks may react react differently "when it's their own child that's been bitten by the tick."